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FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010

## You're The Chef

Students learn to make their own meals.  
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## Fiddleheads

NorCliff Farms event great place to make  
new friends. Page 4

## Wellness centre

Ambitious schedule set out for centre.  
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## The right moves

Steely Street School students learn some  
dance steps. Page 19

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# INPORT NEWS



SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 16 VOLUME 14

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### GREAT KIDS

**'They're  
amazing kids'**

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Some stories made people cry, others made them laugh, but all put a spotlight on the Great Kids in the community.

[see AWARDS](#) | Page 2

### STORE CLOSING: Family set to retire

## Rossmans say goodbye

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

PORL COLBORNE — After 82 years of serving Port Colborne, Rossmans Clothing Store has begun its final sale.

Signs went up in the windows of the Clarence St. store on Friday declaring the business is hosting a retirement sale and liquidating its merchandise.

Customers questioned the signs as they entered, asking owners Harvey and Maida Rossman if the closing rumours were really true.

"It's time," Harvey said simply.

"We're in our 50s now and couldn't ask for a better life. We have made so many friends, so many memories."

[see CLOTHING](#) | Page 2

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

After 82 years of serving Port Colborne, Rossmans Clothing Store has begun its final sale. Although owners Harvey and Maida Rossman will be sad to see the store go, they felt it was the right time to retire and close the doors to the well-known Clarence St. business.



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## ■ CLOTHING

# Many stories over the years

FROM PAGE 1

The clothing store's legacy began when the business was opened 82 years ago by Harvey's grandfather, Esther.

Most customers carry the distinct memory of Esther sitting on her stool in the corner of the original shop, which has expanded three times to include several other storefronts, Harvey said.

Harvey recalled the many antics over the years at the store where he began to work at 14, folding Christmas boxes for a quarter an hour with his brother, Tom.

He still remembers the first piece of clothing he ever sold.

It was a boy's shirt, and he was astonished at the \$9.98 price the customer was willing to pay.

The store was passed on from Esther to Harvey's father Alec, and then to Harvey himself in 1981.

"It's always been a family business," Harvey said proudly.

He and Alec happily worked alongside one another in the store for a number of years, with Harvey's mother working in the children's section.

"We have so many stories," Maida said. She encouraged customers to come down to the store and share their favourite Rossmans memories.

One of Harvey's fondest flashbacks involves a Port Colborne youth who was caught shoplifting from the store many years ago.

In the middle of winter, with freezing cold temperatures, the boy was caught red-handed with a pair of mitts, hat and a scarf.

Feeling for him, Harvey told the boy he could keep the items and wrote him a hand-written receipt.

"I told him 'when you have the money, you can pay me back,'" Harvey said, recalling the conversation.

"Years later, a grown man entered the store with his two children and asked Harvey if he recognized him. He pulled from his pocket a worn piece of paper.

"I believe I owe you some money," that's what he said," Harvey said with a smile as he told the story.

Of all the joys the Rossmans have experienced during their time in business, the relationships they've made with both staff and customers is what's cherished most, Harvey said.



I told him 'when you have the money, you can pay me back.'

Harvey Rossman

Both the customers and the staff have been loyal to the store.

Esther's like Keith Hanson, there for 53 years, and Tammy McVey, there for 31 years have certainly helped to build the Rossmans' reputation, he said.

Maida said Rossmans staff always took pride in getting to know customers and developing a keen sense for who they are and what they like. Rossmans has made its fair share of contributions to area organizations, fundraisers and community agencies.

The store, Harvey said, has acted as a ticket agent for the Port Colborne Operatic Society for the past 50 years and has raised more than \$30,000 for the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

"We did make a difference. We contributed, but all the businesses do in Port Colborne," added Maida. "We love what we did here."

Harvey admitted deciding the store's future was rough.

He feels he and Maida have accomplished a majority of the goals they set with the business, and it's time to move on to a new chapter in their lives.

The business has always carried quality products, he said, and will continue to do so until it closes its doors sometime around June.

The store has been providing uniforms for a number of organizations and schools across the region, including Niagara Regional Police and Lakeshore Catholic High School, and will continue to do so even after Rossmans closes its doors.

Because the uniform portion of the business will remain open and require a tailor, there is the possibility going forward that the Rossmans' retail room may remain open a few days a week.

"I believe we'll be here for a long time," Harvey said.

[mfirth@wellandtribune.ca](mailto:mfirth@wellandtribune.ca)

## ■ AWARDS

# Honouring youths

FROM PAGE 1

*The Tribune's* fifth annual search for Great Kids of South Niagara culminated Sunday with the Great Kids Gala and Awards Ceremony at Welland Lions Hall.

Karin Vanderzee, event co-ordinator and *The Tribune's* circulation manager, said about three dozen people attended the event to honour youth in the community that have strived for excellence.

Over the past two months, nominations were submitted from members of the community hoping to recognize a Great Kid in their life.

Nominations were read and reviewed, with entries narrowed down to 20 outstanding youth from south Niagara.

Each of the 20 Great Kids semifinalists had an opportunity to shine as their personal accomplishments and goals were shared with their friends and family during the gala.

Seeing the proud looks on parents faces as their child's story is read is priceless, Vanderzee said.

"They're amazing kids. They've accomplished so much in their young lives."

Each youth went home with a plaque recognizing their efforts in the community.

Six top finalists were chosen from five categories, each receiving recognition of their accomplishments on a mockup of a *Tribune* front page.

Top finalists also received a \$500 Registered Education Savings Plan donated by the event title sponsor, Meridian Credit Union.

In the Cool to Be Kind category, which honours youth for acts of kindness, support and encouragement, Karissa Clack was selected as the top finalist for ages six to 12. Kander MacNeil of Port Colborne was in this category.

For ages 13 to 18 in the Cool to Be Kind class, Nicky Thomas was honoured as the top finalist.

It was drawn in the Against All Odds category for six-to-12-year-olds, naming both Dakota Ellero, of Wellandport, and Zoe Johnston, of Port Colborne as top finalists.

Against All Odds honours youth who have persevered over a mental, physical, personal, economic or environmental challenge to achieve a goal.

No nominations were received for Against All Odds ages 13 to 18.

In the Cool to Be Cool category, youth who've achieved a level of performance above what might have been expected, Jordan Mancini was chosen as the top finalist for ages six to 12, with Port Colborne's Cassandra DeCiclo in the category. Emily House of Wainfleet, was chosen for ages 13 to 18, with Port's Mackenzie Jones in the category.

"It's truly an afternoon for the kids," Vanderzee said.

She hopes the actions of this year's Great Kids will inspire other youth in the community to do great things.

Port Colborne Mayor Koyama said *The Tribune* is proud to host the Great Kids search each year.

"The gala is a wonderful event to showcase kids in the area," he said, adding this year's event had record attendance.

Twelve-year-old Mac Bell, a 2009 Great Kids top finalist, was the gala's guest speaker. Bell told the crowd he remembered how nervous and excited he was last year, sitting anxiously in his seat awaiting each winner's name to be called.

He told the semifinalists that it's not really about winning, but about "what we do and have."

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## ■ LEARNING TO COOK You're The Chef

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — St. Elizabeth school students are learning how to safely use knives and other kitchen utensils and appliances to make meals for themselves and their families as part of the You're The Chef program.

The parent-run program runs for six weeks and students are making things like cool cream cheese veggie pitas, vegetable fried rice, breakfast parfaits, strawberry-banana smoothies, cheddar apple wraps and tortilla wraps, says Leslie Loibl, a parent.

Loibl, along with parents Anita Aarts and Julie Szabo, are teaching the basics to 35 grades 5 to 8 students at the school.

Loibl, who is the parent-teacher school council, says the three had to go through a four-hour training with Niagara Region's public health department, which offers the program.

**4 We're at the maximum now and we still have more students who want to sign up. It's been a big hit.**

Leslie Loibl

"We were told what kind of equipment to bring and how to teach the children. They do everything themselves."

The program focuses on teaching children how to make healthy, nutritious meals and snacks.

Loibl, who is in Grade 6 at the school, says the focus is also on having children incorporate more fruits and vegetables into their lives through some of the 12 recipes taught.

"I'm really worried about the increase of diabetes and childhood obesity, so that's why we took part in the program."

With 19 grades 7 and 8 students, and 16 grades 5 and 6 students, Loibl says You're The Chef filled up quickly.

"We're at the maximum now and we still have more students who want to sign up. It's been a big hit."



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photos  
In the photos, clockwise from left: Jack Hickey grates some cheese for cool cream cheese veggie pitas; Seth Tutti watches Leslie Loibl cut some broccoli before cutting some himself; parent Anita Aarts watches as, from back, Katie Habjan, Samantha Rezner and Kaylyn Loibl prepare a fried rice dish; and Ethan Wilson grates a carrot for the pitas.

# Fiddleheads and friends — a winning pair

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SUN MEDIA  
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■ Ourview

## A sad day in Port Colborne

After 82 years of serving Port Colborne, Rossmans Clothing Store has begun its final sale.

Signs went up in the windows of the Clarence St. store last week declaring the business is hosting a retirement sale and liquidating its merchandise.

"It's time," Harvey Rossman said simply.

The clothing store's legacy began when the business was opened 82 years ago by Harvey's grandmother, Esther.

Many customers carry the distinct memory of Esther sitting out front in the corner of the original shop, which has expanded three times to include several other storefronts, Harvey said.

"It's always been a family business," Harvey said proudly.

Many of us bought our first suit or dress in that store, or went to look for that right item of clothing you couldn't find anywhere else.

The family has assumed to know their customers and watched as many of them grow up over the years.

It was a business that you don't find it a lot of cities — one that made a personal connection with customers.

It even made its fair share of contributions to area organizations, fundraisers and community agencies.

The store acted as a ticket agent for the Port Colborne Operatic Society for the past 50 years and has raised more than \$35,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society and Foundation.

With the end of the year, the Rossmans are ready to retire and move on to another chapter in their life, the store's closing leaves a gap in the community in a number of ways.

The storefront takes up a good chunk of the block between West and King Sts. and will leave a hole in the downtown core that will be hard to fill.

We hope someone will step in to either take the whole store or part of it to open a new business or businesses.

Perhaps the city could look at leasing or renting it for Canal Days.

It might make a great location for vendors to be during the annual event in case of inclement weather. Or perhaps it could be used for another purpose during the event.

We just hope the storefront does not remain empty for long.

It would leave an unsightly gap in the downtown core, a downtown core with a number of empty storefronts already.

Whatever happens win in the end with the storefront, we wish the Rossman's good luck in their future endeavours.



George Duma  
BY GEORGE

I promised to be an evening of delights for the taste buds.

The invitation to the third annual No Cliff Farms culinary competition was titled, "So you think you can cook?"

The fiddlehead-producing company at the end of Barrick Road has been in business since 1974 and company president Nick Seccord and his wife, Vickie, and son, Oscar, and daughter, Dillorenzo were again showcasing their unique vegetables in a cooking competition. The company is the largest producer of fiddleheads in North America, with a huge farming operation in Quebec.

The fiddlehead-producing company at the end of Barrick Road has been in business since 1974 and company president Nick Seccord and his wife, Vickie, and son, Oscar, and daughter, Dillorenzo were again showcasing their unique vegetables in a cooking competition. The company is the largest producer of fiddleheads in North America, with a huge farming operation in Quebec.

"The team at No Cliff cordially invites you to be our guest on April 16 as part of our judging panel at our dinner party," the invitation told us.

"Judging is based on presentation, taste and smell. So come to enjoy yourself and help us determine our winner."

Last Friday, more than two dozen of us gathered in Nick and Nina's gorgeous estate set in the Wainfleet marshland, surrounded by fern-filled forests and ponds.

We were there last year so we had an idea of what to expect, even though this year's format was slightly different.

As a child, my family would pick wild fiddleheads in Central Ontario and my mother would serve them with a variety of dishes. I've always loved them; they're delicious.

But not everybody knows what fiddleheads are. So Nick and Nina's website has a frequently-asked-questions section on it and it explains the vegetable like this:

"Fiddlehead greens are traditionally known as fiddleheads ... They are found in abundance growing wild along many of North America's fresh water lakes. Each new shoot is in its curled form. It should then dry before it unfurls into a graceful fiddlehead. The optimum harvesting period

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Judges Oscar and Vickie Turchi enjoy one of the dishes featured in the annual competition that puts No Cliff Farms fiddleheads front and centre.

Oscar and Vickie Turchi.

Originally from Tuscany, Italy, Oscar is a chef with 10 businesses on the go in north Niagara, Savoia Hors D'oeuvres Inc., a catering company, in St. Catharines and Savoia Gourmet Emporium, a food boutique in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It features an assortment of imported oils, olive oils, salts, crackers, dips, condiments, dressing, sauces and marinades, aged Rib Eye steak, Provimi veal chops, frozen pastas, a fresh organic deli, honey, jam and marmalades, cookies, coffee and teas, special party mix drinks; you get the idea. Oscar knows his way around a kitchen.

Meanwhile, Vickie, a Niagara native, works at Niagara College's human resources department. I knew I had seen her before last Friday and it was in the college's hallways. It was sheer delight to get to know these two wonderful people over a great meal.

see TASTY | Page 5

## ■ TASTY

# Gracious hosts, good food, good wine

FROM PAGE 4

Dinner started with a fiddlehead soup, Nina's own recipe, followed by a salad of greens with a fiddlehead vinaigrette dressing. Both were delicious and distinct.

The evening's competition came from the three entrées, each with a different chef. It was these three we would vote on as a group.

The first, called Fiddlehead on the Roof, was a scalloped potato dish with fiddleheads on top, mashed with a cream sauce.

The second was also a delicious creation – fiddlehead and rolled feta strudel with caramelized onion, tomato jam and Niagara Gold cheese.

And the third was a fiddlehead flan with alutemites (deep fried crispy potato strips) and goat cheese cream.

It's always difficult to pick a best one in something like this because they're all good but the Fiddlehead on the Roof was exceptionally good as was the strudel. The third one was also wonderful but I'm just not a fan of either flan

or great cheese. Each course was paired up with a different wine from Rockway Glen Winery and it helped to make meal a memorable experience.

The winner? Fiddlehead on the Roof by chef Josh Groom, of 13 Mountain St. Restaurant in Grimsby, a worthy choice.

Gracious hosts, good food, good wine and the opportunity to make new

friends. Friday nights don't get much better than that.

• George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He is currently a member of the journalism faculty at Niagara College. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: [gatuma@cogeco.ca](mailto:gatuma@cogeco.ca)

## DO YOU NEED A FAMILY PHYSICIAN?

InPort News Staff

**P**ORT COLBORNE — If you currently do not have a family doctor, it is important for your overall health and disease prevention that you roster with a family physician. Dr. Halbo Xu is currently accepting new patients at the Port Colborne General Hospital site of his clinic.

Applications are available at city hall, at his clinic and hospital. For more information please contact Joanne Ferraccdi at city hall or Dr Xu's office at 289-478-1015.

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Many things can upset the balance of good bacteria in our bodies. Medications, stress, hormonal changes, poor diet and nutritional deficiencies can decrease the population of probiotics in our bodies. Things like broad spectrum antibiotics, oral contraceptives, and bacteria we want to get rid of, but also the good bacteria in the digestive tract. Other medications that upset the balance are anti-inflammatory drugs, birth control pills and steroids. The great news is that we can increase the friendly bacteria in our bodies by taking supplemental probiotics.

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ADULT KNITTING CLASSES with Vicki Fretz, Tuesday, March 16th to May 18th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday afternoons, March 25th to May 20th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. To join the knitters club call Vicki at 905-835-5373.

see more listings on Page 7

## UPCOMING WORKPLACE VIOLENCE & HARRASSMENT WORKSHOP

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Will you be in compliance by June 15, 2010? Employers with 5 or more employees must take reasonable steps to protect employees from workplace violence & harassment.

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## ALONG THE LAKESHORE

## ONGOING

QUIT SMOKING SUPPORT group, every Monday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Port Colborne General Hospital, 260 Sugarloaf St. All are welcome for the supportive and motivating environment. Contact Bridges Community Health Centre for more information at 289-479-5017 ext. 2445.

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF Niagara Region support

groups for caregivers meets the first Tuesday of each month (except July and August) from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Rapile Lodge, 277 Plymouth Rd. Welland. For information call 905-687-3914.

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## Anaphylactic Reactions

An anaphylactic reaction is the most serious form of an allergy. It is estimated about 2% of the population have this type of allergy. People who have these types of allergies when exposed to the allergen get hives, swelling of the tongue, closing of their airway, a drop in blood pressure, and if untreated can die from the reaction.

Peanut and nut allergies seem much more prevalent now than they did twenty years ago. If you are a caregiver, or teacher of a child with this type of allergy it is very important to be familiar with an EpiPen and how to use it. An EpiPen is to be administered at the first sign of an anaphylactic reaction and it involves giving an automatic injection in the individual's thigh to deliver epinephrine. This medication can reverse the symptoms mentioned above. If you have to give an individual an Epi injection they should still be taken to hospital as soon as possible, one shot may not be enough and they need to be monitored for further respiratory and blood pressure complications.

If you, or someone you know, has this type of allergy please come into the pharmacy where we can show you how to use the EpiPen. Being prepared ahead of time is the best way to make sure you can do what is necessary in a crisis situation.

There are new EpiPens on the market that have different colour coding that make them easier to use. You can buy an EpiPen without a prescription and it may be handy to have one just in case. People can develop allergies later in life, and may not even know they have this type of life threatening condition until they are exposed to an allergen.

One thing to take note of when you buy an EpiPen is the expiry date. Epipens also come in two different strengths. There is an EpiPen Jr. for children 15-30 kg (33lbs-66lbs), and an adult pen for individuals 30kg (66lbs) and up. Most people, even children, require the adult pen, but it is based on weight so you need to make sure you have the appropriate pen. Consult your doctor for your child if they are less than 15kg or 33lbs. If your child is below this weight and they are having an allergic reaction it is best to call 911 or go straight to the ER. You can administer some liquid Benadryl based on their weight on the way to the hospital.

Please be sensitive to people who have these allergies. Anaphylaxis is a life threatening condition and it is up to all of us to protect the most vulnerable people in our community. It is a scary prospect to send your child to school if they have one of these types of allergies. If we are all aware of what to do in case of this type of emergency everyone will benefit from a safer environment.

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**FRISBEE FUN:** Club promotes sportsmanship

# Ultimately Port High

For InPort News

**POR T CO BORNE** — It's a catch!

Ultimate Frisbee combines different sports to create a unique game.

It is a non-contact sport, which has very specific rules to tell how you can travel and how long you may hold the Frisbee.

There are many different sport clubs available to join at Port Coborne High School. However, this is very different. This sport, which is self-refereed, has very heavy emphasis on good sportsmanship.

Teacher Jonathan Fletcher says, "It relies upon a spirit of sportsmanship that places the responsibility of fair play on the player."

Fletcher started the Ultimate Frisbee Club at Port High four years ago, when he started teaching there.

Since then, Fletcher has worked hard promoting Ultimate Frisbee, including workshops for teachers in 2007.

The team plays twice weekly, and has just put on up

coming spring tournaments both indoor and outdoor.

Port High is holding the next tournament for the team in May, following shortly after a large tournament in Hamilton on May 27 involving 30 teams from all over southern Ontario.

Not only has this fun-packed fast paced sport brought a lot of enjoyment to students it has also brought opportunity and skill.

Josh Dayboll and Emily Wikston former Ultimate players for Port High went on to play for university teams like

**It relies upon a spirit of sportsmanship that places the responsibility of fair play on the player.**

Port High teacher Jonathan Fletcher

McMaster and Guelph university.

When Fletcher was asked why he liked Ultimate Frisbee, he replied, "I don't like it, I love it!"

"I love ultimate because it's highly competitive, takes a lot of stamina, skill and most of all it is a lot of fun."

Looking forward to the outcome of the upcoming tournaments Fletcher encourages people to get involved and try out this fast growing game!

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Q. What is a soft liner?

The permanent soft liner is a layer of soft material that is fitted to the surface of your denture and rests next to the oral tissues. The soft liner acts as a cushion or shock absorber between the hard plastic of the denture and the gum area. The soft base will not hurt the resorption of your gum, whose shape and thickness are constantly changing, and the reason for your denture getting looser, but it will ensure that your denture provides continued comfort as time goes by.

Q. What are the advantages of a soft liner?

To name just a few reasons: • Great comfort. • With soft liners, many denture wearers report that they can chew food more comfortable and effectively. • This will extend the health of your gum as well as ensure maximum adherence.

Q. Is a soft liner right for me?

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**AMBITION SCHEDULE:** Preliminary design approved

# New health and wellness centre could be completed by 2012

MARYANN FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

**P**ORT COLBORNE — There's an ambitious schedule ahead for the Port Colborne Health and Wellness Centre.

During a recent meeting, council approved a schedule for the project that provides a time line from preliminary design to completion, including the awarding of documents and the awarding of a contract for construction.

Ron Hanson, director of engineering and operations, provided council with what he called a "firm, aggressive schedule" for the Health and Wellness Centre project.

He said it was important council understands that according to the schedule a council is expected to be made before the Health and Wellness Centre in October.

The last day for council approval and award of the contract for the project is Sept. 10, 2010.

Hanson told council the Class B estimates are expected

to be completed for April 21, with the completion of the working drawings, specifications and tender estimates by July 15. The tender period, submissions and review will happen between July 20 and Aug. 23.

If the project moves forward without delay and the time line is accurately followed, it is proposed the tender for construction of the facility will be awarded at a special meeting of council on Aug. 30, Hanson said.

With a projected construction period of 430 working days, the centre is expected to be completed by Aug. 21.

Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele said the Class B estimates should give council a good idea of "where we stand," with numbers showing a close depiction of what the project cost.

The last estimate for construction of the full proposal — which includes both a lap and leisure pool, a multipurpose field house, two NHL-sized arenas, change rooms for the arenas and pools, a walking/ jogging track and eight outdoor bocce courts — put the cost at \$35.5 million.

Once in the tender process, council can decide whether it ultimately approves or opposes the bid that are presented. Mayor Vance Badaway said that whether approved or not, he expects the current council to be the group to make the decision unless unforeseen circumstances arise.

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■ WAINFLEET

## Township's budget goes down in defeat

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — A township's budget increase of 3.21% went down in defeat last week after council rejected an amendment to it.

"I figured this might happen," said Ald. Ted Hessels, who sought the budget change.

Hessels wanted to see \$20,000 taken from a GPS program and put into a reserve fund for future road repairs.

"Maybe I'm wrong, but I think we should be spending money on roads, not a GPS system," he said. "I think the GPS is a waste of money." Hessels said Wednesday afternoon.

During the council meeting, Wainfleet's director of operations Greg Wuisman explained the GPS system would be used to track snowplows in the winter and bring the township up to date.

Wuisman said snowplow operators now record routes and time what they plowed with pencil and paper. A GPS system would computerize everything and help to reduce any liability the township could face, he said.

"Staff is trying to budget to balance our roads needs along with our other needs," he said.

Wuisman agreed with Hessels on the state of Wainfleet's roads and said the needs currently exceed what the township has in terms of funding.

Hessels made a motion to take the \$20,000 from the GPS and put it into a reserve fund, but that amendment to the main budget motion was defeated, as was the proposed budget itself.

Alds. Rudy Warkentin and Ewan Main voted against the budget because both wanted it to come in at 3% or lower.

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ARTWORK

■ **BACK TO BEING A ROOKIE:** Port Colborne man changing race classes

# Firefighter has a real need for speed

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

**POR T COLBORNE** — Doug Banner's going back to being a rookie again.

After spending the past four years racing in the Pro-4 Truck division at dirt tracks in Niagara and western New York, and winning a class championship, Port Colborne firefighter is taking his need to speed to a whole new level.

This season, Banner will be running in the sportsman division at New Humberstone, Merritville and Ransomville speedways.

"In the truck I'd run anywhere between 60 to 65 m.p.h. and in the sportsman, I'll run up to 100 m.p.h., going straight and 90 m.p.h. in turns. The car will be about triple the horsepower of the truck."

The truck division saw Banner run a 2.5L four-cylinder engine. The engine in the sportsman car is a 350-cubic-inch, 8-cylinder motor. It will crank out about 340 or so horsepower.

All the cars in the division are equipped with the exact same size motor, which levels the playing field for all competitors — makes the racing a little more even.

"Everyone has a fair chance at winning a race and it makes for close racing. We all have to run the same fuel in our cars as well."

That fuel is VP99 racing fuel and is required by the sanctioning body, DIRTCar Racing. Not only is the fuel mandated by DIRTCar, so too is the car's weight.

Each sportsman car has to weigh 2,425 lbs. minimum, including the driver. If the driver in Banner's case, a 2003 Blackwell chassis with a 2010 Racing Fabrication Competition body — doesn't weigh enough, weights have to be added.

Making sure all that weight is balanced just right is important to keeping the car running in the right racing groove on the various tracks.

"We have to set the car up and weight it before each race. We put the most weight on the right rear tire to give it more bite."

Banner hopes having the car set right will help him

when it comes race time. Entering a whole new division means being a rookie all over again.

Asked why he made the switch, why he wanted to be a rookie again, Banner said it was time to move up a class.

In his first four years of racing — after years of watching from the bleachers from his time as a child through to an adult — Banner won rookie of the year honours, five feature races, an award for having the best-appearing truck and two championships.

"I think I did pretty good."

It was also that "need for speed" that influenced the switch as well.

"I'm 53, but think I'm 24," he said.

"I also had a lot of sponsors to help me make the move."

Banner's sponsors include the Golden Grill in Port Colborne, e-Shield Auto Care, Sbarro, Pizzeria, Young Automobile Professionals, Birds Performance Coating, Racing Fabrication Company, Dav's Pit Stop, Regional Fire Service Inc. and Erie Muffler and Brake.

While the sponsors help out, another important part of

making a race car go is the pit crew. Banner's 16-year-old son Ryan is his crew chief and part of the reason Banner started racing.

see NEW SEASON | Page 14

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## ■ NEW SEASON

# Ready to race

FROM PAGE 13

"My son wanted to build something low-budget and that's how I got into the truck series. He's a good crew chief and mechanic."

Banner hopes one day Ryan will take over in the driver's seat and he'll be the crew chief for his son's truck.

But for now, he'll be strapped in tight for races at Ransomville on Fridays, Merrittville on Saturdays and Humsterstone on Sundays. And that's literally strapped in tight. Unlike the every day car all of us drive, the sportsman cars have five-point safety harnesses and a roll cage.

He put that system to the test in the truck series in one race. "I think in the truck series, everything seems to be in slow motion. But with the restrictions, you don't move around at all. It's one of the safest sports around," Banner said.

Humsterstone's 51st racing season is schedule to open Sunday, May 2, with action beginning at 7 p.m.

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Port Colborne racer Doug Banner, second from right, stands in front of his new sportsman race car with his son Ryan, left, and father-in-law Dave Steers, right.



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### MONDAY, APRIL 26

ADULT BOOK CLUB at the Wainfleet Township Public Library at 6:30 p.m. This month's selection is Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen. To obtain a copy of the book, please call 905-899-1277 to register as a book club member.

THE NEXT MEETING of the Wainfleet Historical Society will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the PI Hall of the Marshallville Heritage Village. Member Roland Meisel will present The Year in Review. For more information call 905-386-6978.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

Wi for Adults at the Wainfleet Township Public

Library from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Join us for exciting Nintendo Wii games, including Wii Fit. Great for some light exercise and lots of fun.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 29

CLASSIC BOOK CLUB at the Wainfleet Public Library from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for afternoon tea on the last Thursday of the month as we discuss the works of the Bronte sisters. This month's selection is The Tenant of Wildfell Hall by Anne Bronte. To obtain a copy of the book, please call 905-899-1277 to register as a book club member.

### SATURDAY, MAY 1

Container Gardening Workshop at the Wainfleet Township Public Library at 10 a.m. Join Vivian Shoalts from Master Gardeners of Niagara, and learn how to create a beautiful container garden. Please call 905-899-1277 to pre-register your attendance as space is limited.

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For further information contact:

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## ALONG THE LAKESHORE

### SUNDAY MAY 2

ROBED IN SPRING presented by St. James & St. Brendan Church Choir with special guests The Rio Trio and Sucra. A fundraising concert for new choir robes. Event gets underway at 7 p.m. at St. James & St. Brendan Anglican Church, 55 Charlotte St. Tickets are \$10 and are available through the church office 905-834-3184 or from any choir member.

### THURSDAY, MAY 6

THE WINGER-WAINFLEET WOMEN'S Institute is holding its meeting titled making history at 1:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room

at the Wainfleet Arena. For more information contact Elizabeth at 905-899-4872.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 5

BIKERS RIGHTS ORGANIZATION Port Colborne is holding its second annual charity golf tournament at Emerald Pines Golf Club, 1878 Sherk Rd., Port Colborne with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Cost is \$75, with registration from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. All proceeds will be donated to Special Olympics Ontario. For more information contact John Lacroix at 905-835-2210, Brad Cutler at 289-228-2769, Larry Davidson at 905-353-0121 or Penny Dalke at 905-357-2834.

## AT THE LIBRARY

EXPRESS YOURSELF: Writer's Support Group with facilitators Gary and Kitty Roy. Thursdays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Practical advice on getting published, finding a literary agent, and copyrights. For more information contact the facilitators by e-mail at [groy10@cogeco.ca](mailto:groy10@cogeco.ca), or call the library at 905-834-6512.

## ONGOING

THE 79 LYNTON DAVIES Air Cadet Squadron meets every Tuesday at St. Peters Lutheran Church, 200 Erie St, Port Colborne from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Inter-

ested persons should contact captain John Derouise at 905-227-7609.

KIDS ZONE for children aged six to 12 run every Monday and Friday from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the centre for Community Living, 100 McRae Ave. until June 18 for a \$5 registration fee. Free transportation available call 905 835-8941 ext. 135 and all events are supervised by adults.

COMPUTER WORKSHOPS and one-on-one training are available at the Wainfleet Township Public Library Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please call the library at 905-899-1277 to book an appointment.

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**General Employment A800**

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